



PUBLISHED DAILY AND WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.
WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 13.

In the U. S. Senate to day an adverse report was made upon the proposition to aid the starving Chinese. A bill to equip another Arctic expedition was favorably reported. The resolution declaring it inexpedient to reduce the tax on distilled spirits was discussed for a short time, but no action taken. The Silver bill was further considered by Mr. Merrimon, of N. C., and others.

The House had under consideration again the West Point appropriation bill.

Anxious solicitude about the Congressional representative from this district has always been expressed by the newspapers of Washington. That it should be so is not surprising, for having no member of Congress of their own, it is but natural that they should not only look to, but depend upon, the member sent by their nearest neighbors, for such legislation as they may desire. Such having been the case with the many newspapers that have been published in Washington in the past, the interest taken by those now printed there in our next representative is only what might have been expected, and that they should differ in their preferences is no occasion for wonder. The Post, an able and staunch democratic journal, wants Gen. Hutton returned, but by a strange misconception—so strange that we are inclined to believe the article in which reference was made to us escaped the supervision of its editors, says that we have entered upon a crusade against him and wish to succeed him, when all our readers are aware that of the many communications that have appeared in our columns concerning the next representative the majority were written by his friends and for the purpose of effecting his re-nomination, and that our adverse criticism of his course in Congress was not upon his course alone, but upon that of the whole Virginia delegation, and was induced by the manner in which, as is generally conceded, that delegation has signally failed to win back for Virginia the influence she formerly wielded in the Congress of the United States. This being the case with regard to our action respecting the General, the Post is equally at fault respecting our motives, for if we are cognizant of the influence that impel us, and like the oft quoted Judge, we think we are, the wish to succeed him is not included in our large repertory of desires, and, until the Post mentioned it, it had never escaped acquaintance with our ideas.

The Telegram, an ultra democratic paper, on the contrary, don't want the General to come back to Congress, and calls upon his constituents to remember that as a member of the Committee on the District of Columbia he voted against restoring to the citizens of that District the privilege of suffrage.

The Capital, also democratic, and the especial organ of the workmen of the District, thinks that the General has been in Congress long enough, and says:

"The index finger of the hand politic of Virginia points to the successful nominee of the next congressional convention of the eight district in Mr. S. C. Neal of Alexandria. The anticipation of this gentleman's nomination to represent this section of Virginia in Congress is by no means premature. Alexandria is largely the leading city of the district, exceeding in size and importance all the other towns, and Mr. Neal is the representative young lawyer of this section—talented, polite and of advanced and progressive views. He will be supported by the majority of the voters of the district, representing its intelligence and material prosperity."

The Capital's predictions have heretofore been very generally verified, and the friends of Mr. Neal throughout the district seem confident that he will be our next representative in Congress. Mr. Neal is fortunate in having in each county in the district zealous and energetic friends, who will leave nothing undone, honorably, to secure him the nomination, should he decide to become a candidate.

Because a so called sovereign State, through its established forms of law, tries and convicts felons for crimes committed within its limits, the Secretary of the Treasury longs for some strong power, even the military, "to correct the lawlessness of the dangerous classes in New Orleans," and says "that such rule as Generals Sheridan and Ben Butler gave them would be salutary, for they recognized their strong hand and the beneficial effects which flowed from their military rule," and the President, taking his cue from the majority of his Cabinet, and still intent upon winning back to his support the dominant portion of his party, says that "grave constitutional questions may be involved, and in which the general government may perhaps have the right to interfere." If this nation be, as generally supposed, a Union of equal States, we cannot exactly understand how the general government could interfere with a criminal trial in Louisiana any more than it could with one in Massachusetts, and that it could not interfere with one in the latter state no one knows better than the President's Attorney General, Mr. Devens. Still, woe to the conquered, and though the South, through her ablest representatives, may sing heartfelt peans for a restored Union, as was done by Mr. Stephens yesterday, we should not be surprised if the contemplated outrage were perpetrated, and justified by the North and West, as they have justified all the many previous outrages, and some of them no more heinous than the one referred to, that have been inflicted upon their unfortunate fellow countrymen of the South.

In the Maryland Senate yesterday the bill authorizing the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company to issue \$500,000 in repair bonds, and to enable it to become a carrier instead of a water highway, as at present, was ordered to its engrossment.

The Pioneer Mills Property.

The vote of the republican members of the House last Monday on the bill for the relief of William H. Newman and L. A. Von Hoffman, of New York, looks enough like repudiation to alarm the creditors of the Government. There was no reason for the rejection of this claim. It was in no sense a rebel claim. There was no question of loyalty involved. It was not a case of damage to property in the prosecution of the war. None of the objections usually made to claims originating during the war apply to this claim. There were no lapses on the part of the claimants in the prosecution of their claim. The United States owe the money, and there is no legal or equitable plea to the demand. The claimants are loyal citizens of New York, and never resided in a disloyal State. In the darkest days of the civil war they aided the Government with their private means. They had before the war invested large means in the city of Alexandria, and were entitled to the protection of the government in the enjoyment of their property in this city. When a loyal man who was a citizen of a disloyal state presents a claim, payment is refused upon the ground that he was in law an enemy; that the war was waged against states, not individuals, and as he was a part of the State, there can be no discrimination in his favor. But where the legal claimant, who was not an enemy because of his residence in a disloyal State, presents his claim, can payment be refused because his property was in a disloyal State?

This would be to wage war against individuals, and not against the State.

It will be borne in mind that this was not a case of seizure—the government occupied the property under an agreement. It will hardly be contended that the government could seize the property of its loyal citizens residing in a loyal State. Such citizen was protected by the constitutional provision that private property shall not be taken for public use without compensation. But this was not a case of seizure. The United States entered into the occupation of this property under an agreement to pay for it. Let it be, that it was not a contract, a specific performance of which could have been enforced by the claimants; but the government having enjoyed the benefit of the contract, which was fully executed, the government cannot now escape the payment of the claim upon the plea that the officer had no authority to make that contract. The mill was built upon leased ground, at a cost of nearly \$150,000. The ground rent paid to the city of Alexandria was \$1,720 annually, and the claimants paid this rent every year while the government occupied the property.

At the expiration of the first year of tenancy the claimants presented their claim based upon the amount they had invested in the property. The secretary of war thought the rent charged too high, and the officers of the government offered to pay \$5,000 per annum, which the claimants did not think a reasonable compensation, and declined to take it. Thus the matter stood until the year 1865, when the claim was placed in an attorney's hands for prosecution, who proceeded to take evidence to prove what would be a reasonable compensation for the use of the property, and the proofs show that \$5,000 per annum is an inadequate compensation, the wharf alone being worth almost half that sum. Soon after these proofs were presented to the war department, Congress passed the act of February 21, 1867, and the Secretary of War decided that the act prohibited the payment of the claim by the department.

The claimants then went before the Southern Claims Commissioners, who held that they had no jurisdiction of claims for rent or use and occupation of real estate.

The claimants then appealed to the Forty-second Congress, and the Claims Committee of the House unanimously reported a bill for their relief, but Congress expired without reaching the claim.

They appealed to the Forty-third Congress, which expired without any action on the claim.

The War Claims Committee of the Forty-fourth Congress unanimously reported in favor of the claim, but presidential matters absorbed the attention of Congress, and the claim was not reached.

Again the War Claims Committee of the present Congress unanimously reported in favor of the claim—and the Committee of the Whole passed the bill and reported it to the House—when it was defeated by northern republicans votes.

The southern members, who had no interest in the claimants, voted for the bill simply because they believed the claim to be just—while northern republicans voted against it for political purposes. Several republicans—amongst them Foster, Conger and A. H. Smith, who were members of the committee which unanimously reported the bill—voted against it under party dictation. What does it mean?

Surely there was never a juster claim. Not only did the government use the property of its loyal citizens of a loyal state, under an agreement to pay for it, but the claimants actually paid out of their pockets \$1,720 each year of the occupation for the use of the government, and in addition to all this the valuable machinery in the mill was so damaged during the tenancy of the government that it has never since been of any use. Well might the committee report that the "good faith" of the government was pledged to the payment of this claim—the payment of which has been repudiated by the republican party of the House. It is difficult to discriminate between obligations by parol and those under seal. An example has been set, which may be relied upon as a precedent when other obligations of the government are repudiated.

The States of Pennsylvania, Vermont and Ohio have asked Congress to pay them for arming and equipping troops during the war. They want to be paid for fighting for "the flag." Patriotism has its price, in money now a days, and the claims of the States referred to will probably be paid, as the North and West will vote for them; but, as Virginia's representatives vote to pay for nothing outside of the South, the representatives from other sections of the country vote against any appropriation for Virginia.

The meeting of the National Democratic Committee, to have been held in Washington on the 22d instant, has been postponed until the 22d proximo.

Memorial Services.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—The grand and impressive ceremonial of the solemn mass of requiem for Pope Pius IX. was observed in its entirety to day in the Cardinals' church, St. Patrick's Cathedral. The services lasted from 9.30 a. m. till 1 p. m. and proceeded without the least hitch or interruption under the direction of the Rev. Father Kearney, the pastor of the cathedral and master of ceremonies. Bishop Loughlin was celebrant attended by the usual deacons and subdeacons. The office for the dead was chanted by about 150 priests and fifty choristers all led by Vicar General Quinn. The cathedral was crowded and included in the congregation were officers of national, state and municipal governments. The music of the mass was sung by a large number of voices.

The steamship Mercedita, which preceded the ill-fated Metropolis with men and materials for the construction of the Madeira and Mamore Railroad of Brazil, put into Barbados on the 17th of December, to replenish the supply of coal and water, which had become exhausted by the slow progress of the steamer. The Mercedita was expected to reach Para in about ten days after leaving Barbados. The third steamer, the City of Richmond, will probably sail to-morrow from Philadelphia, and among her passengers will be many of those rescued from the Metropolis.

Foreign News.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

Lord Derby in the British House of Lords, yesterday afternoon, said he hoped to inform the House on Thursday that the intention of the Government had been carried out and that the fleet is before Constantinople. France and Italy have suspended their movement toward sending their fleets, probably, because a firm answer had been refused. Regarding Austria, he only knew she had asked for a firm answer. The only difficulty regarding the conference was about the place of meeting, which difficulty, he believed, would be overcome.

Vefik Effendi informed the Turkish Chamber yesterday that he hoped to communicate the peace conditions four days hence. He declared that if the British fleet passed the Dardanelles he would protest and cast the responsibility for the consequences upon England.

A despatch from St. Petersburg, states that both the press and the public highly approve Prince Gortschakoff's telegram of Sunday last to the Powers, declaring that as Great Britain and other Powers had determined to send fleets for the protection of their subjects in Constantinople, Russia would be obliged to contemplate the entry of a portion of her troops into Constantinople for the protection of the Christian residents.

A despatch dated Constantinople, yesterday, says: "The Grand Duke Nicholas has expressed his satisfaction to Vefik Effendi at his admission of the British fleet."

In yesterday's sitting of the Turkish Parliament several deputies urged Vefik Effendi to act with consideration toward England relative to the passage of the Dardanelles.

It is considered in well informed circles probable that the Porte will form a firm for the entry of the British fleet, in a view of a Russian occupation of Constantinople, which is hourly expected.

Twelve Russian battalions will enter Constantinople to day.

The Grand Duke Nicholas has telegraphed to the Porte that the Russians will enter Constantinople if the British fleet enters the Bosphorus.

The London Standard says: "We have reason to believe that the Porte will not much longer withhold the firm admitting the British fleet, but its concessions will not ameliorate the situation."

The London Leader, which is very warlike, concludes as follows: "We have the power to bring cannon to bear and reduce or bear off for prodence, and the Czar may rest assured that when other arguments are exhausted we shall not hesitate that the Russian Embassy and a small Russian detachment entered Constantinople yesterday. The report is not confirmed."

It is understood in London that Admiral Hornby is instructed to force the Dardanelles with, if necessary, the whole of his fleet of ironclads. The matter caused a long discussion in yesterday's Cabinet Council. Vefik Effendi's declaration on Monday in the Turkish Parliament as reported last night seems to indicate, however, that it will not be necessary to use force.

A despatch received this morning from Constantinople reports that Mr. Layard telegraphed Lord Derby at Midnight last night that he still was without instructions relative to the fleet. It is reported that torpedoes are being placed in the Bosphorus.

Russia has notified Austria that among the questions withdrawn from the consideration of the Conference are the reorganization of Bulgaria, the occupation of Bulgaria by the Russian troops, and the re-annexation of Bessarabia. This note has given umbrage at Vienna.

Mr. Joseph Cowen (Radical Reformer), member of Parliament for Newcastle-on-Tyne, made a violent speech in the House of Commons last night against Russia, which the morning papers criticized sharply as tending to provoke war.

London, Feb. 13.—Last night's announcement in Parliament have not appreciably relieved the tension or diminished the excitement here.

The Pall Mall Gazette of yesterday afternoon expressed expectation that the Government would seek permission to enter the Dardanelles by means of a formal pledge that the fleet should have no other business before Constantinople except that declared in Lord Derby's statement of Friday. The Pall Mall Gazette considered this about as perilous and humiliating a position as was possible. It declared it to be the imperative duty of the Ministry to redeem the country from this position at any cost and demanded such a reconstruction of the Cabinet as would leave no doubt that it, like the country, is of one mind.

The Times' Vienna dispatch says on this subject: "What looks very certain, namely, that the fleet of the British fleet into the Dardanelles has become the subject of negotiations ostensibly between the British Government and the Porte, but in reality through the Porte between England and Russia."

Times, in its leading editorial article says: "However desirable a compromise may be it can only be based upon the re-establishment of some degree of mutual confidence, and it is necessary to observe that it still depends upon Russia to take the first steps requisite for this purpose."

(Note, Lord Derby made a statement in the House of Lords on Friday similar to that made the same day in the House of Commons by Sir Stafford Northcote, who said a portion of the fleet was ordered to Constantinople, not as a departure from neutrality but as a protection to life and property; that the other powers had been notified with a request to join and that Russia was also notified.—Ed.)

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The London correspondents of the Liverpool papers state that a portion of the militia will soon be called out and two corvettes, now in American waters, have been ordered to join the Mediterranean squadron.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In reply to questions from several courts the Papal nuncios have been instructed to announce that the funeral of the late Pope will be privately celebrated in the Sixtine Chapel on the 16th, 17th and 18th instant; consequently, persons attending the service will do so in a private manner. The Cardinals will assemble in conclave on the evening of the 18th inst. The proclamation of the new Pope will be made to the Catholic world from the grand balcony of the Vatican Basilica.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The Times' Rome correspondent telegraphs as follows:—"The ambassadors of the Catholic powers have jointly intimated to the Camerlengo that if some Cardinals, known for their uncompromising spirit, whom they named, were likely to obtain the suffrages of the conclave, the ambassadors would be compelled to oppose their election. The Camerlengo has found in the Pope's desk a sealed packet, with instructions for delivering it into the hands of his successor. He also found 400,000 scudi, the destination of which probably is designated in the Pope's testament. The Pope's wealth altogether is said to amount to 120,000,000 lire, which is mostly in the hands of the Rothschilds at Paris."

The King of Siam will send a diplomatic representative to the United States next year. It is highly probable that through the influence of the American Consul at Bangkok the Siamese Government will send a number of youths to America to be educated. The youths who were going with Mr. Chandler two years ago, but were prevented by Mr. Partridge, have been recently sent to Germany for their education. Mr. Chandler, whom Mr. Partridge insulted and imprisoned, has just returned to Bangkok, and was welcomed by the King and officers of the State and well received by the people generally.

The Southern Mail.

A conference of gentlemen representing interests connected with the mail facilities of Baltimore in the South was held with Postmaster General Key yesterday afternoon.

There were present Messrs. A. S. Abell and Geo. W. Abell, of the Baltimore Sun; C. C. Fulton, of the Baltimore American; General E. B. Tyler, postmaster of Baltimore; R. E. Boyd, chief clerk Baltimore postoffice; J. B. Work, assistant postmaster at Lynchburg; Frank Thompson, general manager Pennsylvania Railroad; A. S. Buford, president of Richmond and Danville Railroad; H. W. Kennedy, superintendent Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad; J. S. Barbour, receiver, Payton Randolph, engineer of the Virginia Midland Railroad; Henry E. Key, receiver of the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad, and Mr. Bailey, of the Bailey, of the Postoffice Department, said that, with the present schedule, there was general dissatisfaction.

Mr. Barbour thought that it was very unfair, as had sometimes been done, to lay the blame of this trouble in the mails upon the Virginia Midland Road. That road is compelled to run according to the hours of the competing lines, and that road would be willing to make any schedule in which the others would unite, but certainly it is not fair to ask the Midland Road to run a train which the others do not run.

Mr. Work said that the present schedule worked very injuriously to the interests of Lynchburg.

Mr. Barbour said that the former schedule, which the Baltimore gentlemen desired, would suit the Midland Road, if all the competing roads concurred.

Mr. Bailey said that a 9.30 p. m. and a 4 a. m. train would suit everybody.

Mr. Barbour—That is the schedule which the Virginia Midland Road prefers. Certainly Washington, the capital of the nation, ought to be entitled to some day line South out of the city. All the other cities North have trains going out morning, noon and night, while Washington has no day train at all. The Midland Road had, for the convenience of local travel, been running a "boat" train to Gordonsville, and that without compensation. And upon this very much of the Richmond mail was carried, which would otherwise be delayed eight hours in Washington. But for this Richmond would not now have a day line. As it is, the Northern roads dominate the situation. We do not, he said, make schedules. We only drop in line. We cannot do otherwise.

Mr. Bailey said that by the present schedule there was no local service on the Midland Road. The postmasters will not stay up all night to wait for the mail. He had noticed that the complaints which came to the department were far oftener on account of the delay of the newspapers than the delay of letters.

Mr. Work said the business of Lynchburg was largely dependent on Baltimore, Baltimore was the nearest and cheapest market, and its reports were of essential importance there.

Mr. Thomson—Why not telegraph them?

Mr. Work responded that country papers cannot be reached by telegraphs as they can by newspapers.

Mr. A. S. Abell—They will get not only the Baltimore markets, but the markets of New York and Philadelphia, eight hours sooner by the schedule which we ask to have established than by the present one.

Mr. Randolph, in justice to the Midland Road, said that it had maintained an early line out of Washington for two years in the hope that the other roads would cooperate with them.

As an evidence of the need of an early morning train, Mr. Barbour noted that the most valuable mail which goes to Richmond and the South passes on a local train on the Midland Road because it is a day train. This carried one third of the whole mail of the twenty-four hours. The present schedule suits New York very well, but not Washington. Washington was his centre. You gentlemen look at one place, New York; I look at Washington, and as an adjunct, to Baltimore also. All the cities North have such trains.

Mr. Thomson—You must do us the justice to say that this schedule was made south of Richmond.

Mr. Barbour did not know that.

Mr. Thomson—The Pennsylvania Road will run a train whenever it is wanted.

Mr. Barbour—We are obliged to adopt your hours.

Mr. Thomson—That's the milk in the coconuts.

At this point a temporary adjournment of the conference took place.

The interview was resumed at 5.30 o'clock, all the parties interested being present.

Mr. Thomson, of the Pennsylvania Road, said his road was now running along on the identical schedule that it had been working on for the past two years. There had, however, been a change between Gordonsville and Lynchburg, a distance of eighty miles, on the Virginia Midland Road, represented by Mr. Barbour, and that seemed to be about the difficulty complained of.

Mr. Barbour said his road had been running of late two through trains, but it appeared that the facilities thus afforded were not sufficient. If a third between Gordonsville and Lynchburg was wanted, as it seemed it was, of course he would run it, but he thought that his road should receive compensation for it from some source. He did not know why his road should extend the additional facility without being paid for it. At present he was giving the same number of mails to Lynchburg from here that the Fredericksburg route, represented by Messrs. Robinson, and the Pennsylvania Road, represented by Mr. Thomson, were giving to Richmond. In answer to a question of Postmaster Tyler, of Baltimore, Mr. Barbour said his road did not receive all of its business from Baltimore and Lynchburg, but Baltimore was only one of its accessories.

Mr. Barbour—I am willing to run any train that our Southern connections will take up.

Mr. Abell suggested that if an arrangement could be made as suggested by Mr. Thomson, it would be satisfactory to the Baltimore interests.

Mr. Barbour—I am willing to do anything to expedite the mails, and will break a connection to do it, but I must have some compensation. Lynchburg, where we run to, is not a Baltimore or New York.

Mr. Thomson—Why not restore the train from Gordonsville to Lynchburg?

Mr. Barbour—We will do it if you will pay a part of the expenses. If you make up a pool, we will take you in and pay our share of the expense. No one should ask me to put on a train at a loss to our road.

Mr. Barbour also said that the two through trains he was now running kept up all his through connections with the South, and that the third train was not run because it would not pay. The third train did not have, sometimes, more than four or five passengers, and, of course, it could not be run.

Mr. Thomson—We don't think it is fair, then, that you should charge us with any deficiency.

Mr. Barbour—We are now doing the same service that any other road is doing from Washington south, and are willing to do what any other road will do, but we don't think it is fair that we should be asked to do more.

From Washington.

[SPECIAL TO THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.] WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 13, SENATE.

In the Senate, to-day, a memorial was presented from the Board of Trade and Transportation of New York in opposition to the re-nomination of silver, and setting forth that the burden falls upon the poor man.

Mr. Thurman presented the petition of Joseph Owens, aged 90 years, a soldier of the war of 1812, praying an increase of pension.

Mr. Conkling presented the petition of certain ordnance officers who have in military parlance been "jumped."

A bill in reference to the sale of certain lands in Kansas belonging to the Seneca Indians of New York, was passed.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs reported it impracticable to send supplies from this country to the starving Chinese, and that no relief measures could now be made by Congress in time to accomplish any good, and were discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

A favorable report was made upon a bill to authorize and equip an expedition to the Arctic seas.

Among the bills introduced and referred were the following: One to fund certain indebtedness of the District of Columbia, and one to provide for savings and the issuing of bonds of small denominations for home use.

A resolution calling for information in regard to delinquent pensions in the New Orleans district, was passed.

The resolution declaring it inexpedient to reduce the tax on distilled spirits, was called up and advocated by Mr. Morrill and objected to by Mr. Merrimon, of N. C., and after some discussion went over.

A resolution to permit Lieut. Thomas B. Mason to accept a silver medal from the King of Italy, for services rendered in saving the crew of an Italian bark, was considered and agreed to, after which

The regular order, the consideration of the silver bill, was resumed, and

Mr. Merrimon, of N. C., took the floor and spoke at length in favor of the Bill.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Blackburn reported a bill for the government of the District of Columbia, which was ordered to be printed and re-committed.

The House, in committee of the whole, further considered the West Point Naval Academy appropriation bill. An amendment allowing civilians to be appointed to the rank of Second Lieutenants was defeated by a vote of 73 to 77, the republicans generally voting in the affirmative and the democrats in the negative.

Mr. Butler, of Mass., in a speech on the bill, thought a well regulated militia was much more in accord with republican institutions than a standing army.

Gen. Chalmers, of Miss., in reply to charges that the South was in favor of cutting down the army, made a most eloquent reply, which so tickled the ear of the House that he was allowed extra time, and received the applause of the democrats.

NOTES.

The Polk investigation continues, and to-day Col. P. gave his version of the Pennsylvania avenue paving contract, two years ago; also why he made certain appointments—amounting to little. The idea now is that Col. P. will not be removed.

Dr. Moffett—the punch man—Maj. Grimley, of Culpeper, Mr. Heaton, of Loudoun, Judge Hughes and other Virginians are in the city to-day.

In the House of Representatives, yesterday, Mr. Hutton presented the papers relating to the war claims of William H. Taylor, John K. Frebey and Anthony Imbs, which were referred to the Committee on War Claims.

Legislative.

In the State Senate, yesterday, the Barbour tax bill was made the special order for to-day.

A resolution was adopted as to the expediency of reporting a bill authorizing a State Convention to prepare a constitution for the State, said convention to be composed of one delegate from each Senatorial district, and that no member of the present General Assembly shall be eligible to a seat in the said convention.

Bills were passed to provide for the payment of traveling expenses of circuit judges; to authorize Charles T. Lutz to establish a ferry in Loudoun county; to authorize the re-assessment of lands in the Commonwealth that have been injured by the late floods, and amending the law in relation to the duties of the State vaccine agent.

In the House of Delegates, bills were reported to amend the act to incorporate the Mr. Vernon Ladies' Association; to amend the Code in relation to the salary of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; to amend the Code in relation to the powers, duties, and appointments of the Board of Public Works; to amend the Code in relation to the duties of city council to make appropriations for school purposes; to amend the Code in relation to the pay of Commonwealth's attorneys, and to amend the act prescribing the duties, &c., of county officers, and for the repeal of chapters 37 and 46 of the Code.

An adverse report was made upon the resolution as to the establishment of a State female seminary out of the school fund.

Among the bills introduced was one allowing further time to the Treasurer of Fredericksburg to make his return of delinquents, and one to amend the Code in relation to judgments by justices of the peace.

Bills were passed to amend sections 1, 4, 5 and 9, chapters 135 of Acts of 1874-75, in relation to grand juries; for the relief of William Bears, of Loudoun county; to regulate the working of the public roads in Prince William county; to amend the Code so as to prohibit the cutting of cord wood longer than four feet.

The bill for the reduction of pay of members of the General Assembly and officers of the Government coming up, a vote was taken on the amendment to abolish the office of Assistant Clerk of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, resulting as follows: Yeas 54, nays 49.

Mr. Taliferro, of Gloucester, moved to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was adopted, and spoke at length in favor of his motion.

Mr. Henry also urged the reconsideration. Messrs. Allen (Mr. Starke in the chair), Harvie and Fauntleroy opposed the motion to reconsider the vote, which was lost by a recorded vote of 49 yeas to 56 noes.

News of the Day.

The body of Mrs. Jane Pittman, who died in Cincinnati, Monday, will be conveyed to Washington to be cremated by Dr. Lemoyne, in accordance with her own wishes expressed in her written will.

An insane son of Wm. Lancaster, of Clyde Station, Illinois, eluded his keepers on Monday, and procuring a club, beat his father's brains out while the latter was asleep in bed.

The U. S. Senate has confirmed the nomination of George W. F. Vernon to be surveyor of customs at Baltimore, Md., and M. P. Wickersham, postmaster at Mobile, Alabama.

Case, the President of the Security Life Insurance Company of New York, has been released on bail of \$25,000 pending an application for an appeal.

Freights from New York to Chicago have been reduced from \$1 to 75cts, on first and a pro rata reduction in other classes.

Rev. Dabney Ball, D.D., presiding elder of the East Baltimore district Methodist Episcopal Church south is dangerously ill.

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